

A GENERIC SYNONYM

BY

OAKES AMES

Dipodium squamatum *Robert Brown ex Lindley* Gen. & Sp. Orch. Pl. (1833) 186.

Orphrys? squamata Forster Fl. Ins. Austr. Prodr. (1786) 59, (no. 310).

Cymbidium squamatum Swartz in Kgl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 21 (1800) 238.

Epidendrum squamatum Poiret in Lamarck Encycl. Suppl. 1 (1810) 376.

Trichochilus neo-ebudicus Ames in Journ. Arn. Arb. 13 (1932) 142.

THE GENUS *DIPODIUM*, as treated by Pfitzer in his classification of the Orchidaceae in Engler and Prantl's *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, is assigned to the *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*. This is a concept characterized by a laterally produced flower-shoot in contradistinction to the *Acrotonae-Acranthae*, a concept characterized by a terminally produced flower-shoot. *Dipodium squamatum* R. Brown and *D. punctatum* R. Brown, the Australasian species taken by Pfitzer to represent the genus *Dipodium*, are, as I interpret them, distinguished by a terminally produced flower-shoot and would seem properly to belong in his *Acrotonae-Acranthae*.

When I proposed the new genus *Trichochilus*, I was unmindful of *Dipodium*, a well-figured group with numerous specimens in my herbarium. Consequently, when the material in hand with a terminal inflorescence failed to work out as belonging to Pfitzer's *Acrotonae-Acranthae*, I thought I was justified in proposing a new genus.

Pfitzer briefly characterized the genus *Dipodium* under his *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*, and made the significant

statement: "Pfl. zur Blütezeit und warscheinlich überhaupt blattlos, in ihrem Aufbau noch ungenügend bekannt." As he restricted the genus to the Australasian species, it would seem that he intended to exclude from *Dipodium* the Malayan species with lateral flower-shoots (plants clearly referable to the *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*) and to recognize for their reception the genus *Wailesia*. Perhaps, as Pfitzer implied, the vegetative structure of *Dipodium*, as represented by *D. punctatum* and *D. squamatum*, is in need of further elucidation. However, as long ago as 1862, H. G. Reichenbach (in *Xenia Orchidacea* 2 (1862) 15, t. 107) attempted a classification of the then known species (taking *Dipodium* in its broadest sense to include *Wailesia*), and in his key to the genus established two groups: one characterized by a terminal inflorescence, including *D. punctatum* and *D. squamatum*; the other characterized by a lateral inflorescence, including *D. paludosum* and *D. pictum*. He published a very accurate illustration of *D. squamatum* and showed clearly what he interpreted as a terminal inflorescence.

Unfortunately the specimens of *D. squamatum* and *D. punctatum* found in herbaria are usually incomplete and appear to be broken where they emerge from the ground, yet it is difficult to understand why Pfitzer, relying on vegetative characters, should have regarded these species as members of his *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*.

If *Dipodium* is accepted in the modern sense to include the species formerly referred to *Wailesia* (on floral structures it is evident that these genera are closely related and doubtfully separable) it should be emphasized that the Australasian species, *D. punctatum* and *D. squamatum*, constitute an exception to the generic characters of *Dipodium* based on a lateral flower-shoot and are in the same category with several other genera of the *Orchidaceae*, such as *Dendrochilum* and some of the ab-

errant species of *Epidendrum* which should be referred, in a key erected on vegetative characters, to both the *Acrotonae-Acranthae* and to the *Acrotonae-Pleuranthae*.

STUDIES IN PONTIEVA

BY

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Ponthieva chuquiribambae (*Kränzln.*) *Ames & Schweinfurth, comb. nov.*

Pleurothallis Chuquiribambae Kränzlin in *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 44 (1930) 327.

On receipt of habit drawings and detailed floral analyses of the type of *Pleurothallis Chuquiribambae* from the Reichenbach Herbarium at Vienna, it became very evident that this species is a typical member of the genus *Ponthieva*. The characteristically asymmetrical petals adnate, together with the lip, to the upper part of the column are diagnostic for *Ponthieva* and are quite distinct from what obtains in the very distantly related genus *Pleurothallis*.

This species, however, does not appear to be referable to any *Ponthieva* previously described. It is allied to the widespread *P. maculata* Lindl., particularly to the rather dwarf form of the plant found in Central America: but it differs in having apparently narrower connate lateral sepals and a dissimilar markedly unguiculate ovate-triangular lip. Furthermore, *Ponthieva chuquiribambae* appears to differ from the Peruvian *P. villosa* Lindl. in